



June 9, 2006

Powerful Math & Science Partnerships are Increasing Student Achievement in Stark County

Historic collaborations between our school districts, SCESC, colleges, foundations, business community and the Stark Education Partnership lasting well over a decade have produced continued growth in math and science student achievement. Here are some examples:

- **SEEDS (Science Education Enhancing the Development of Skills)** — In 1993, SEP provides \$500,000. Teacher leaders use this as leverage to write and receive a major \$3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. This five year program targeted the improvement of elementary science and crossed 16 districts. **Results:** *Dramatic increases in elementary science scores consistently above state averages. SEEDS wins Ohio BEST Practices Award in 1997. One of only three science programs in the nation selected for inclusion in What Works in the Elementary School: Results-based Staff Development (2002, National Staff Development Council and NEA).*
- **SATURN (Science and Technology for Understanding Research and Networking)** — In 1999, while SEEDS is underway, NSF awards another \$1 million to the Stark County Educational Service Center to improve secondary science. SEP, the Timken, Hoover, Herbert W. Hoover, Deuble and Stark Community Foundations contribute \$100,000 per year over five years for a local match. **Results:** *While state average gain in 9th grade science proficiency is 29% over the life of the grant, Stark's county-wide gain is 33%. Stark districts gain individually from 22% to 44%. At the 10th grade, the county wide average over the course of testing is 34% compared to a statewide average of 29%. Stark districts individually gain between 24% to 53%.*
- **SAMM (Science and Math on the Move)** — Originally proposed by W.R. Timken, Jr. and funded by the Timken Foundation for \$500,000 over its first three years, SAMM houses high tech science and math equipment which can be delivered to any of the county's high schools as needed. All five Stark colleges participated in the formation of SAMM. Originally housed at Kent Stark and now at the Bill Mease Center for Science and Math, this common inventory

Additional Local P-16 Council Sites in Ohio

KnowledgeWorks foundation awarded grants to Ashtabula County, Greater Cincinnati, Clark County, Highland County and Summit County to help those locations establish local P-16 Councils similar in function to the P-16 Council in Stark County. The choices were difficult because 13 sites applied for the funding.

The Stark Education Partnership, through a strategic alliance grant from KnowledgeWorks, *helped in the selection process by speaking at a conference held in February and by contributing to the review of proposals.* We will continue to work with KnowledgeWorks and these five sites as well as responding to the requests from other sites.

Questions or Comments?

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of equipment places highly sophisticated and expensive equipment within the reach of all. Numerous partners as well as the districts and SCESC have supported SAMM over the years. Currently, additional foundation funds are being sought to expand and sustain the program. **Results:** *Also a winner of an Ohio BEST Practices award, SAMM began with slightly over 5,000 student equipment uses a year. Latest figures record over 40,000.*

- **MSP (Math and Science Partnership)** — In 2002, NSF awarded a 5 year grant of \$7.5 million to SCESC, all 17 school districts, and Kent State Stark, Walsh University, Mount Union College, Malone College, and Stark State College of Technology to improve student achievement and reduce the achievement gap in math and science in all Stark County high schools and middle schools. Only two other grants of this size were awarded by NSF nationally. MSP is advised by a local business advisory council and features nearly 40 summer internships in business for Stark County teachers. **Results:** *While unverified averages for the March 2006 Ohio Graduation Test show the state average in science to be 70.9% at proficient or above, 14 Stark County districts exceed this average, ranging as high as 92.8% proficient and above.*
- **CROSSROADS I & II** — Two successive grants from the Ohio Board of Regents in 2004 and 2005 for over \$450,000 partnered Walsh University, SCESC and SEP in training on pedagogy and content for elementary math teachers grades 3-5. **Results:** *While full 2006 results are still being compiled, Stark's county-wide average on all Ohio test indicators at all levels have exceeded state averages for several years. This trend is well expected to continue.*
- **SAMM II** — Equipment and operational costs to enhance SAMM activities were funded for two years (2006-2007, and 2007-2008) by the Timken, Hoover, H.W. Hoover, Deuble and Paul and Carol David Foundation. The Stark Community Foundation and the Silk Foundation are also considering funding these costs.
- **SMART BOARDS** — In 2005 the Timken Foundation responded to a grant request with \$127,500 to equip, over two years, classrooms in Alliance City Schools and elsewhere in Stark County with Smart Boards to facilitate the teaching of math and science.

Looking At The Week

On June 5th, the Stark Education Partnership submitted a Best Practices Implementation Grant Request to the Ohio College Access Network (OCAN). If awarded the funds will be used to support “*Application Access, the Kent Stark/ Canton Local project to encourage all seniors to apply to college and succeed in their freshman year.*”

Worthy of Note – Issued on May 31st, a minority report accompanying the report of the Higher Education Funding Study Council said the following: *Expand the Stark P-16 as a larger pilot project. The legislature should provide assistance to counties and regions to form P-16 partnerships between primary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education and the business community to connect students throughout the educational spectrum with the benefits of obtaining advanced education* (pg. 18).